

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /190 W

----- 110187

R 121549Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8197

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT FORMATION - NO. 2 - THE FIRST ROUND

REF: COPENHAGEN 3110

SUMMARY: FIRST ROUND OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION TALKS -
PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS BY PRIMIN ANKER JORGENSEN - HAS BEEN
EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 14, ASSURING THAT NO NEW GOVERNMENT
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WILL BE NAMED UNTIL AFTER EC SUMMIT. PROBABILITIES

APPEAR TO BE NARROWING TO AN R AND/OR V GOVERNMENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. PRELIMINARY ROUND OF SOUNDINGS, EXPECTED TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED DEC 12, HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL DEC 14. DELAY IS TO PERMIT A MEETING OF FIVE "LIBERAL" PARTIES (RADICALS-R, MODERATE LIBERALS-V, CONSERVATIVES-K, CENTER DEMOCRATS-CD AND CHRISTIANS-CR), AT INSTIGATION OF CONSERVATIVES, TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF BROAD BOURGEOIS VKR GOVERNMENT. FOLLOWING THAT MEETING PRIMIN WILL TAKE NEW SOUNDINGS AND REPORT RESULTS TO QUEEN MORNING DEC 14. THIS EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDES ANY GOVERNMENT BEING CONSTITUTED BEFORE EC SUMMIT.

2. JORGENSEN TOLD PRESS THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) AND TRADE UNION (LO) LEADERS WERE BOTH STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SDP PARTICIPATING IN NEXT GOVERNMENT. ACTING SDP PARTY LEADER, DURING JORGENSEN'S ABSENCE AS FORMATEUR, ANNOUNCED THAT THE "MOST PROBABLE OUTCOME" OF FIVE-PARTY MEETING WAS A VKR GOVERNMENT, WITH MODERATE LIBERAL LEADER POUL HARTLING AS PRIME MINISTER.

3. BOTH THE DELAY TO FACILITATE FIVE-PARTY MEETING AND SDP COMMENTARY WERE TACTICAL MOVES BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO BOOST CANDIDACY OF HARTLING - AND OPPOSE MANEUVERING BY RADICAL LEADER HILMAR BAUNSGAARD - FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP. (FIVE PARTY MEETING IS TO BE LED BY HARTLING, AS LEADER OF LARGEST PARTY AMONG THE FIVE.) AT THIS READING THE CHANCES FOR A VKR GOVERNMENT ARE NOT GREAT AND MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT DEC 12 MEETING TO CONFIRM THAT FACT. THE PROBABILITIES APPEAR RATHER TO BE NARROWING TO A GOVERNMENT HEADED BY R AND/OR V.

4. MAJOR PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THE QUESTION OF PRIME MINISTERSHIP. RELATIONS BETWEEN HARTLING AND BAUNSGAARD HAVE DETERIORATED MARKEDLY DUE TO HARTLING'S EARLY MOVE TO SECURE THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP FOR HIS PARTY. (HE INFORMED QUEEN DURING INITIAL SOUNDINGS THAT HE WAS READY TO ACT AS FORMATEUR.) THIS VIOLATED CONFIDENTIAL

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A CONFIDENTIAL PRE-ELECTION AGREEMENT AMONG VKR PARTIES, ACCORDING TO WHICH BAUNSGAARD WAS EXPECTED TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER AND HARTLING FOREIGN MINISTER.

5. BECAUSE OF THIS PERSONAL ANTAGONISM THE CHANCES ARE GROWING THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE A ONE-PARTY MINORITY GOVERNMENT. SUCH A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE VERY NARROW BASE IN PARLIAMENT AND WULD PRESUMABLY

BE FORCED TO BORROW FROM OTHER PARTIES A NUMBER OF
MINISTERS (IN RETURN FOR WHICH GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO
SUPPORT CERTAIN SPECIFIC MEASURES DESIRED BY CONTRIBUTING
PARTIES.) THESE MINISTERS WOULD THEN PARTICIPATE IN
THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY AND NOT AS PARTY MEN.

6. AN ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITY CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED
IS AN RV GOVERNMENT HEADED BY RADICAL LIBERAL KARL SKYtte
RATHER THAN BAUNSGAARD. SKYtte, AS PRESIDENT OF
THE FOLKETING SINCE 1968, IS BROADLY RESPECT IN THE
FOLKETING AND WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOCIALIST
BLOC THAN BAUNSGAARD.

7. EMBASSY OFFICER LEARNED FROM SPECIAL ADVISOR
APPINTED TO COUNSEL THE QUEEN ON GOVERNMENT FORMATION
THAT THESE EXISTS SOME NERVOUSNESS AT THE PALACE OVER
THE MANNER IN WHICH ANKER JORGENSEN TENDERS HIS
RECOMMENDATIONS. IF JORGENSEN DOES NOT CLEARLY
RECOMMEND A FORMATEUR, QUEEN MAY BE REQUIRED TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN BAUNSGAARD AND HARTLING - SUBJECTING HER TO
POSSIBLE CRITICISM FROM ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.

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